



HERITAGE

U.S. COINS & CURRENCY

Do you appreciate images that let you see the differences between AU58 & MS60?



1848 CAL. Quarter Eagle AU58 NGC

Realized: \$53,188

HA.com/1172*4709

Many numismatists consider the 1848 CAL. \$2.50 as America's first commemorative coin. Their case is strong – and may be stronger than the strike encountered on some of the 1,389 pieces struck of this rarity. Specialists need to be able to differentiate between wear and strike as the basis for their valuations. With so much at stake, isn't it comforting to know that Heritage understands because we're collectors too.

We invite you to join the online community at HA.com, and view the details of this AU58 example in all of its historic glory. Our images will take

you back to the historic days of the California Gold Rush, to the excitement at Sutter's Mill in 1848. While you are enjoying the fantasy, extend the experience with a coin beyond reality – the magnificent MS68 NGC at HA.com/394*3419 which realized \$402,500 in FUN 2006. Or for a more complete education, in our free Auction Archives you can research the three dozen examples that Heritage has sold in the past.

To consign your rarities to an upcoming Heritage event, please contact a consignment director at 800-872-6467 ext. 1000.

Annual Sales Exceed \$800 Million | 750,000+ Online Bidder-Members

3500 MAPLE AVE | DALLAS, TEXAS 75219 | 800-872-6467 | HA.COM

DALLAS | NEW YORK | BEVERLY HILLS | SAN FRANCISCO | PARIS | GENEVA

THE WORLD'S LARGEST NUMISMATIC AUCTIONEER

HERITAGE HA.com
A U C T I O N S

Free catalog and *The Collector's Handbook* (\$65 value) for new clients.

Please submit auction invoices of \$1000+ in this category, from any source. Include your contact information and mail to Heritage, fax 214-409-1425, email CatalogOrders@HA.com, or call 866-835-3243.

For more details, go to HA.com/FCO.

22651



Liberty Bell

SUMMER 2012

In this issue

The First Circulating Money in California: Barter was the principal method of exchange in California... **4**

Augustus Humbert and the United States Assay Office: Augustus Humbert was the son of a watch maker... **11**

The Goldroad Token: Early in 1850, a wagon train left... **18**

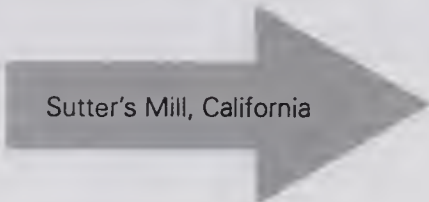


Regulars

Editor's Observations... **2**

Destination Highlights
This issue highlights
Sutter's Fort... **23**

Auction Highlights... **21 & 22**



Brasher Bulletin

Editor's observations

.....



Dear Members,

I'm happy to present the annual ANA edition of the Brasher Bulletin. I hope you enjoy the content and stories submitted by our members and sponsors. There have been many exciting changes this year and we look forward to the excitement of a bustling ANA 2012 in Philadelphia.

This year's annual meeting of the Society of Private and Pioneer Numismatics hosts Barry Sunshine, Robert D Leonard and Fred Holabird. With interesting topics and fascinating pieces in this year's auctions, I look forward to participating and seeing all of you at the convention center and on the bourse floor.

With my continued gratitude and admiration,

Don

S•P•P•N•

President
Donald H. Kagin

Vice President
Cherie Schoeps

Treasurer
Beth Catcher

Secretary
Caressa Suarez

Brasher • Bulletin

Editor in Chief
Donald H. Kagin

Assistant Editor
Beth Catcher

Distribution Manager
Caressa Suarez



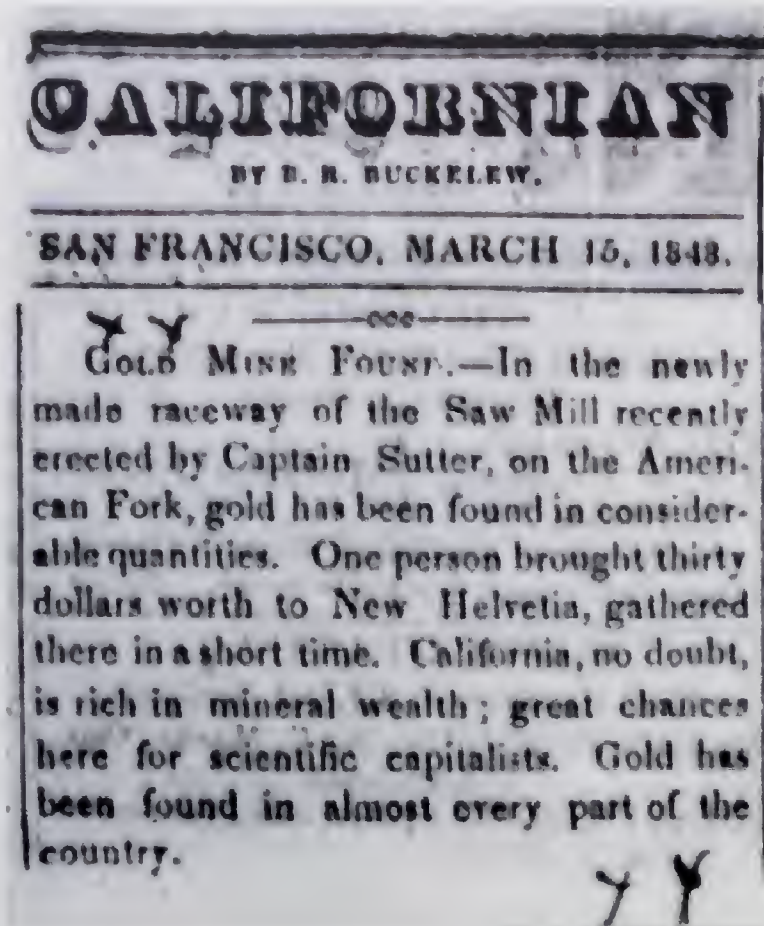
[illegible]

For over three quarters of a century, Kagin's has maintained a commitment to creating long-term relationships by providing personalized expert service while building the finest and rarest numismatic portfolios for both collectors and investors.

A Numismatic Tradition Since 1912

Kagin's





"Gold Mine Fever" newspaper clipping, *The Californian*, March 15 1848"

The First Circulating Money of California

by Don Kagin

Anyone who has taken a California history class has heard of Captain John Sutter, an enterprising Swiss immigrant to the United States and California. It was on Sutter's property that gold was discovered, which led to the California Gold Rush—the greatest in history. But few know that it was Sutter who created and distributed the first California money prior to that great discovery.

Early Trade in California

Barter was the principal method of exchange in California well into the nineteenth century. The Spanish missions had little need for commerce and a monetary economy, nor did the self-sufficient ranches. The Indians used beads in trading, and by the early 1800s, tallow, hides, sea otter skins, and cattle served as media of exchange.¹ Spanish and Mexican traders, too, often used hides, called "California bank notes" for trade goods that averaged \$1.50 to \$2.00 in value.²

As trade and commerce increased in the region, there was more of a need for coins. From time to time soldiers and

traders would bring gold and silver coins to use for trading. These mainly consisted of Spanish coins, Mexican gold doubloons, and a few American gold coins, along with silver coins of Mexico, Peru, and the United States.³ There were, however, no coins or tokens struck for circulation in California until the early 1840s.

Sutter's California Enterprise

John Augustus Sutter was born in Germany, although his parents originally came from Switzerland. In 1834, he sailed to New York and soon moved to Missouri, where for three years he operated as a trader on the Santa Fe Trail. In 1838, he set out on the Oregon Trail arriving at Fort Vancouver, near present day Portland, Oregon. From there, he journeyed to California via the Hawaiian Islands and the Russian colony of Sitka, Alaska. In 1839, Sutter secured from the provincial governor in Monterey permission to establish a settlement along the Sacramento River.

Ultimately, Sutter set up a fort at the junction of the American and Sacramento Rivers near present-day

Sacramento. He expanded the settlement in 1841, when he purchased the contents of the abandoned Russian Fort Ross. His laborers included a number of Native American Indians.

There is some evidence that tokens were used in exchange for labor and goods. On September 3rd, 1846, a visitor to Sutter's fort, Edwin Bryant, observed that, "a tin coin issued by Captain Sutter circulates among [his employed Indians], upon which is stamped the number of days that the holder has labored. These stamps indicate the value in merchandise to which the laborer or holder is entitled."⁴ Writing two years later, pioneer E. Gould Buffum confirmed such use:

[Sutter] paid his Indian laborers with a species of money made of tin, which was stamped with dots, indicating the number of days' labour for which each one was given; and they were returned to him in exchange for cotton cloth at a dollar a yard, and trinkets and sweetmeats at corresponding prices.⁵

The use of these tokens—none of which are known today—was quite limited and evidently only served as a supplement to barter goods like store merchandise or ox hides.

Ironically, it was the discovery of gold on Sutter's mill on January 24, 1848, that eventually led to his financial

demise. Very soon afterwards, all of Sutter's workmen abandoned him to seek their fortune in the gold fields. Squatters swarmed over his land, destroying crops and butchering his herds. By 1852, Sutter's enterprise had been devastated and Sutter was bankrupt. But his legacy, including the manufacturing and distributing of these small tin tokens, will live on in the annals of California history.

[1] Ira B. Cross, *Financing An Empire*, Vol. I, S.K. Clarke Publishing Co., Chicago-San Francisco-Los Angeles, 1927. p. 22.

[2] R. G. Cleland, *A History of California*, The American Period, New York, 1922, p.45

[3] William Heath Davis, *Seventy-Five Years in California 1831-1906*, John Howell: San Francisco, 1929. p 159.

[4] Edwin Bryant, *What I Saw In California*, reprinted from the 1849 Appleton edition by Lewis Osborne: Palo Alto, Ca. 1967. pps. 267-8.

[5] E. Gould Buffum, *Six Months in the Gold Mines* (Philadelphia, 1850: Lea & Blanchard), p.XV



MINT CONDITION: UNION BANK'S COLLECTION

Bank's rare Pioneer Gold collection rivals Smithsonian's

*Reprinted from Union Bank Connect Magazine,
Winter 2011*

Tucked away below Union Bank's historic San Francisco main branch sits one of the bank's little-known treasures - a collection of gold rush coins that rivals that of the Smithsonian.

Historians who are in the know take visitors down the winding staircase from the branch's main level to The Bank of California Museum, which houses these valuable coins, as well as other historic artifacts that chronicle the life and times of bank founder William Chapman Ralston. And while the museum itself may be diminutive, the gold coins it features tell a grand tale about the early, rough and tumble days of the West.

PIONEER GOLD

The discover of gold at Sutter's Mill in 1848 led to one of the most colorful eras in United States history and also resulted in many of our country's most interesting coins, explains Donald Kagin, Ph.D./numismatics and the nation's leading Pioneer Gold coin expert. The lack of an efficient means of exchange in gold rush-era California led to the establishment of many private coiners, as well as the founding of the U.S. Assay Office. The availability of California gold even led the Mormon Church in Salt Lake City to strike gold coins.

Called "Pioneer Gold," these coins were minted and circulated in certain regions of the United States between



1830 and 1862 – most notably in Georgia, North Carolina, California, Oregon, Colorado, and Utah – following the discovery of gold in those regions. Although they were struck outside the U.S. Mint, the coins were generally accepted in commerce just as if they were made by the U.S. government.

After the establishment of the San Francisco Mint in 1854, the need for private coinage in California should have abated. However, occasional shortages of parting acids forced the closure of the new mint in 1854 and 1855, and assayers Kellogg & Co. and Wass Molitor & Company briefly struck coins at the request of local merchants. Meanwhile, the Colorado gold rush that began in 1858 sparked a new wave of private minters, such as the well-respected firm of Clark, Gruber & Company.

THE BANK COLLECTION

Union Bank's collection features most of the private gold issues from the 1850s gold rush era, including some great rarities like the bank's octagonal \$50 Humbert gold slugs, arguably the most popular coin minted in American history. Many of these coins are so rare that there is no auction history of their sales in the past dozen years, although prices have been known to reach well above \$100,000 for the most desirable Pioneer Gold issues.

UNION BANK'S COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

1849 Mormon \$20

The first privately issued gold coins using gold from California's gold rush were not, in fact, minted in California – they were minted in Salt Lake City by the Mormons.

When gold was discovered in California in 1848, a high percentage of the population in San Francisco was Mormon. Most had arrived there as part of a Mormon battalion that fought in the Mexican-American War and believed that California was their promised land. They worked in Sutter's Mill, where gold was first discovered, as their East Coast brethren followed Mormon leaders Joseph Smith and Brigham Young west, eventually settling in Salt Lake City.

As the California Mormons migrated to the "New Zion" in Salt Lake City, they brought their gold dust with them and used it to pay church tithes. Brigham Young decided to melt the dust, engrave dies, and strike coins for a newly

created Deseret Mint, making these the first gold coins struck west of the Mississippi.

The coin depicts the three-pointed Phrygian Crown, the emblem of Mormon priesthood, above the all-seeing eye of God. The reverse image shows clasped hands for friendship.

1849 Oregon Exchange \$10

Oregonians were among the first immigrants to California to mine gold dust and, when they brought it north, they needed to convert it into a more practical medium of exchange. Since both the federal and territorial governments at the time failed to provide the means for creating currency, local leaders formed the Oregon Exchange Company.

The company melted down gold dust to create \$5 and \$10 pieces with the unique beaver design and the letters "O.T." to designate the Territory of Oregon. The new coinage was soon dubbed "Beaver Money" after the image of the beaver, later to become the official emblem of Oregon. The mint operated for less than six months and produced only about 2,850 \$10 specimens, making this an extremely rare coin.

1851 Baldwin \$20

By far the most valuable coin in Union Bank's collection, this was the first \$20 denomination issued in California. Union Bank has one of only six specimens known in existence.

George Baldwin was at first applauded for supplying the citizens of San Francisco with low-denomination coins that were badly needed to carry on day-to-day transactions. But the company didn't last long. In 1851, journalist James King of William sent Baldwin's coins and other private issues to be valued by the U.S. Assay Office. The results, which showed the coins to be less than face value, were published in all the local newspapers. Baldwin fled town with his partners shortly thereafter.

Meanwhile, many of the Baldwin coins were sent to the U.S. Assay Office and melted, leaving little Baldwin coinage left in circulation.

continues on next page

1851 Humbert \$50

These unusually shaped gold ingots were called “slugs,” supposedly because several of these two and a half ounce coins could be put into a handkerchief or sock and used as a weapon.

They were minted by the U.S. Assay Office in San Francisco. The office, led by Augustus Humbert, was a stop-gap solution created by Congress to meet the region’s need for a medium of exchange, while political jealousies in

New York and Philadelphia stalled the opening of the San Francisco Mint until 1854. The government contracted with one of the local assayers who had the best reputation for integrity, Moffat & Co., and the \$50 gold pieces were put into circulation.

The Assay Office pieces effectively removed private gold coins from circulation, particularly after private issues like Baldwin’s were discredited. Unfortunately, the government neglected to authorize lower denominations for over a year until early 1852.

Submit Stories

to
*the Brasher
Bulletin*
It's Easy!

Just send your *unformatted*
word doc & separate jpeg images
to
info@kagins.com



Call Lena at 415-435-2601
for details

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP SOCIETY OF PRIVATE AND PIONEER NUMISMATICS



NEW MEMBERS: \$30
RENEWING MEMBERS: \$25

Annual membership includes a quarterly e-newsletter,
a beautifully printed compilation edition,
an invitation to the annual meeting and
sponsorship and marketing opportunities.

Send your name, mailing address and contact information to:

SPPN
1550G Tiburon Boulevard, Suite 201
Tiburon, CA 94920
Fax: 415-435-1627
info@sppn.com



S F MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Visit www.sfhhistory.org

2012 Hot August Auction

& Treasures From The Shelves

Live Auction * Atlantis Casino & Resort * Reno, Nevada

August 17th & 18th, 2012

Call to request a catalog, or view the catalog online!

www.HolabirdAmericana.com



*Dr. Jim Jacobitz's
Western Americana Collection



*Ken Roberts
Miner's Candlestick
Collection

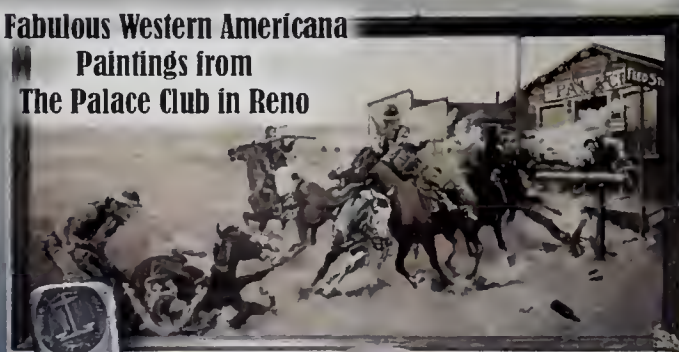


Major Nevada & California
Bottle Collections



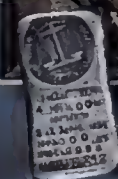
1910 Mills Liberty Bell

* Fabulous Western Americana
Paintings from
The Palace Club in Reno



* World's Fair &
Exposition Pieces
featuring the
Robert Mayer collection

*Casino & Gaming
Memorabilia



* Gold & Silver Ingots
& Numismatica



*Gold & Silver Specimens



Over 1500 lots of World Class
Americana & Numismatic Rarities.
You won't want to miss this once in a
lifetime offering!

Holabird-Kagin Americana

3555 Airway Dr. Suite 308 - Reno, NV 89511

Toll Free 877-852-8822 www.HolabirdAmericana.com

**Always Accepting
Quality Consignments**

WANT LIST

Are you looking for a particular coin or
piece of information?

SPPN can help.

Send us your questions or want list and
we'll find the items and maintain a personalized
list catered to your needs.

Please send the following information to
beth@kagins.com or fax to it to **415-435-1627**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Describe your want list or general interests:

Augustus Humbert

and the

United States Assay Office¹

Humbert as a Watch Case Manufacturer

AUGUSTUS HUMBERT (AH2) was the son of a watch maker. Born in 1817 in Germany, Humbert and other family members emigrated to the United States in 1840 when the threat of war and political upheaval in the German States caused many to flee. The Humberts relocated from the German States to America, in this case New York City. Several Germanic jewelers and watch case makers also relocated to the United States, such as western assayers Harvey Harris and August Hemme.

Humbert was one of two close relatives with the same name born within approximately four years of each other. The other (AH1) became an Exchange Broker in New York, whose brother Pierre was an auctioneer for the Exchange. They were so close that the other's mother came to live with the assayer's son Augustus (AH3) in later years. Her name was Augustina.² Importantly, the other Augustus Humbert (AH1, b1813, Switzerland) was the same man who later gave his coin collection to his brother Pierre (born 1814), whose mother was Augustina.³

By 1850, Humbert's watch case manufacturing business in New York was successful.

His wife Madlane⁴ (born in Switzerland) bore him four children, who in 1850 were Clara (age 10), Augustus (9),

Alfred (8), and Henry (2). His son Augustus went on to fight in the Civil War.⁵ None of the family accompanied him on his trip West, nor came West later.⁶

The United States Assay Office is Born

The job of US Assayer was proposed in 1849-50, as were potential Branch Mints in Sacramento and San Francisco. California, however, had no legal status – it was neither a Territory nor a State – thus there was no specific political entity in charge.⁷ Californians organized anyway, in anticipation and preparation for Territorial status, but instead Congress and the Senate brought them in as the first Western state, without ever having gone through Territorial status.⁸ With the proposals for a mint and assay office in the West, Eastern politicians, green and ridiculously naive in the affairs of the West, immediately began posturing for new facilities in their districts. New York, always the heart of the American business system, felt that if a Mint or Assay Office was to be built, and if one was to be placed in California, there should be one in New York. There was a point to this. With so much gold coming in from California, a stepping stone in New York receiving gold from California would be a big help to the mother mint in Philadelphia.

US Mint Versus Privately Issued Gold Coins – The Copper Versus Silver Alloy Problem

Mint director Patterson had been acutely aware of the gold production of California, and was a believer in its continued production. He fully understood the implications of the huge amount of native gold coming into the Mint system and even more important, the “Big Picture” – which was that California gold was a natural mixture of gold and silver, alloyed at an average of about 887 fine gold to 113 fine of silver, with no copper. American gold coins were made of a constructed alloy of 90% gold, ten percent copper, after 1837. The exact weight of each



denomination of gold coin contained exactly the weight of gold necessary to equate to the intrinsic value of gold in the coin compared to the face value, hence the weights of the coins were measured in grains, often to the tenth of a grain (480 grains to the troy ounce). By using copper as an alloy, the coins were hardened, allowing slower wear, and there was no added intrinsic value, since the amount of copper was minimal. Native California gold however, contained silver as a natural alloy. As an example, a one ounce coin contained 0.113 fine silver which was an added 13.6 cents, an amount ignored by all of the news media and complainers, who argued that California privately minted coins contained too little gold. A standard Mint US gold coin, with a constructed alloy of 900 fine gold and 100 fine copper, such as a \$10 gold piece, contained 0.48375 troy ounces of gold, and at \$20.67/ troy ounce⁹, each standard issue US gold \$10 coin thus contained \$10 in gold.

California private gold coin issues, however, such as the Moffat and USAO coins contained both gold and silver in that same specific ratio, thus the total gold and silver combined was important, a fact lost on the unknowledgeable public. Moffat did add copper to his alloy, thus it was not exactly natural as many maintained, but it was minimal. Moffat understood the difference, as did Mint Director Patterson, but the public just couldn't grasp the concept and the difference between a constructed alloy with the intrinsic value strictly in the gold, versus the natural alloy from California which contained intrinsic value in both parts of the natural alloy. Moffat and Mint Director Patterson had told the public all along that it was nearly impossible to make the same exact alloy as the US standard gold coins because of the lack of acids and the ability to produce specific constructed alloys, as well as refined gold and silver in the West, where there were no facilities, hence the need for a Mint. While the science of constructed alloys was old, the public's understanding of it was virtually nil, as evidenced by so many articles in the California and national press refuting California private gold coins as being "not worth their face value", when in fact, they often exceeded face value when both the gold and silver content were taken into account.

Eckfeldt's own account of the Moffat \$10 coins included assays of four specimens – one in New Orleans and one at Philadelphia. Three of the four weighed 258 grains, and the fourth 259. Eckfeldt carefully reported the assays of the coins, but only calculated the value of the gold, not the real and actual intrinsic value of the coins. With calculations for

the silver added, the value of the four Moffat coins assayed by the Mints was: \$10.01, \$9.99, \$9.86 and \$9.83. Eckfeldt offered no direct comparison of four independently assayed standard post-1837 US \$10 gold coins.¹⁰ In Eckfeldt and Dubois' own words:

The result was at first so surprising, that only a decided confirmation could satisfy us. It proves, what was not to be expected, that the establishment has gone to the pains and expense of partly refining out the silver from the native gold in order to the substitution of the other alloying metal.¹¹

Plan Emerges for USAO in California

T. Butler King and Thomas Corwin, senator from California, had been fighting diligently in Congress for the Mint or Assay Office. Working with Mint Director Patterson, Mint Director since 1835 through multiple administrations, a well thought out plan was in place.¹² But in the arena of Washington politics, all best laid plans are subject to destruction, and that's exactly what happened. President Taylor died unexpectedly of cholera in 1850, and vice President Fillmore cleaned house when he took over, inclusive of the Mint Director, which effectively forced the California group start over. In many ways, it caused a two-year delay.¹³ This confusion led the new California Territorial Legislature to form the California State Assay Office, headed by O. P. Sutton as Director with F. D. Kohler as State Assayer. This entity was specifically formed in the absence of a Federal coining or assaying facility, and was slated to be dissolved as soon as one was created.¹⁴

After long and serious discussions in Congress, all laid out plainly in the Congressional Globe, Augustus Humbert was appointed as the US Assayer in California. T. Butler King and Moffat went to New York to escort Humbert to California.

No correspondence has yet been located regarding the hiring of Humbert, or his views on the subject.¹⁵ The decision by Humbert to take the California job was costly. His wife and family did not come with him to California. This was perhaps not unexpected, since California was a complete unknown to those who were used to living in a metropolitan area, and California was the exact opposite – a land of unknowns with a difficult life ahead.¹⁶

An Assayer is Chosen

Humbert was perhaps the third choice for the new post of United States Assayer. The first choice was the first

Dahlonge Mint Assayer, Joseph Farnum. Farnum appears to have been the first assayer to make it to California in 1848, and the first to open shop in San Francisco, though he didn't last long there. He was quickly appointed by the British Mint to oversee parts of their operations, and took that job with vigor.¹⁷ Farnum recommended Moffat to Mint Director Patterson as the head of the USAO. Farnum knew John Little Moffat from his Dahlonge days. Moffat was an important gold merchant and miner involved with New York bankers (and jewelers) Wm. Wilmarth and Joseph Curtis. This partnership, formed in the mid 1830's, proved pivotal in the future development of the US Assay Office and the California gold trading business in general, which Moffat and Curtis were clearly at the helm in the overall developmental process.¹⁸

Moffat, however, had little lust for a political appointment, and had even less gumption to put up with the political antics of Washington, of which he was well experienced. A younger man needed to fill the position. Moffat was already at the top of the game in California, had no long-term ambitions to a political career or a career with the US Mint. The Washington political system that controlled the Mint was far too slow moving for Moffat, and it was already he who was directing all the gold traffic in California. The tough job was keeping up with Moffat, and the Mint followed him, his recommendations, and ultimately purchased Moffat's entire assaying and pioneer coinage operation. The USAO refitted it and opened the first Mint west of the Mississippi in San Francisco in 1854.

Humbert Arrives in California

Humbert left New York for California in the fall of 1850 accompanied by T. Butler King and John Moffat. The trio must have spent the time well in the discussion of the duties and all aspects of the business. Moffat was incredibly experienced, and Humbert's attention to Moffat's discussions of procedures as well as the political scene must have been exhilarating. They crossed the isthmus at Panama in relative ease, loaded on board the SS Tennessee in the evening of December 12, 1850, arriving at the Port of San Francisco on January 8, 1851, as reported January 11 in the Daily Alta California. Humbert, Moffat and King "experienced pleasant weather during the voyage", according to the Alta California. Little did the trio know, that luck was with them. Built in October, 1848 for the Savannah Steam Navigation Company, the 1275 ton steamer originally was used for



transport between New York and Savannah. But with the gold rush at hand, she was purchased by Howland and Aspinwall of the Pacific Mail Steam Ship Co. and became the first steam ship whose service was interrupted to run the Panama-San Francisco route. She set to sea for Panama December 23, 1849 from New York, never to return again. She reached Panama on March 12, 1850, only to encounter a crowd of a reported 3000 people desperate for the trip to San Francisco. Humbert et al may have been about the third trip from Panama to San Francisco, but just 2.5 years later, after perhaps ten trips between SF and Panama, the SS Tennessee sank in the fog near the headlands of San Francisco Bay at a place now known as Tennessee Cove. All the passengers were saved.

Production of the \$50 Ingots Begins

Humbert, Moffat, Kellogg, Curtis, Perry and Ward hit the ground running. John G. Kellogg, educated as a lawyer, had acquired the contract for the US Assay Office for the company, and Humbert spent the next week in complete immersion in the business.¹⁹ It was speculated by Edgar Adams in 1913²⁰ that the dies for the USAO \$50 slugs were made in New York by C.C. Wright based upon the occurrence of his name on one of the lettered edge pattern \$50 coins, which unfortunately has no solid pedigree back

to 1851, but does date back to the sale of the Bushnell Collection in 1882.²¹ Moffat used his in-house, and later contract engraver Albrecht Kuner to make the dies for his \$5 and \$10 gold coins. Adams had access to Kuner's personal copy of Eckfeldt's epic work with illustrations of many of the California private coins with hand written pencil notations next to the coins that he designed, and he reported no notations next to the \$50 slug.²² Kuner's own handwritten autobiography also does not mention him designing the \$50 slug, thus the conclusion of Adams is probably correct.

Within ten days of Humbert's arrival in San Francisco in 1851, Moffat announced as early as January 22 that they (USAO) would be open for business on or before February 1. Humbert's two week intense training session matched those given at the US Mint given to newly appointed Branch Mint assayers. Moffat and his staff must have felt the session was a success. The dies were made before January 31, 1851, since their existence was reported in the Pacific News on Feb. 1st.²³ Undoubtedly, Moffat & Co. had prepared for the striking of the \$50 slugs and made the planchets well in advance. It is equally probable that about this time, the company began striking the \$50 slugs, which were released on February 20, 1851, when it was reported that "about 300 coins" had been made.²⁴ The advance striking of the slugs is certain because of the appearance of a detailed line drawing of a slug in the San Francisco Prices Current of Feb. 14, 1851, a full week before their public release.

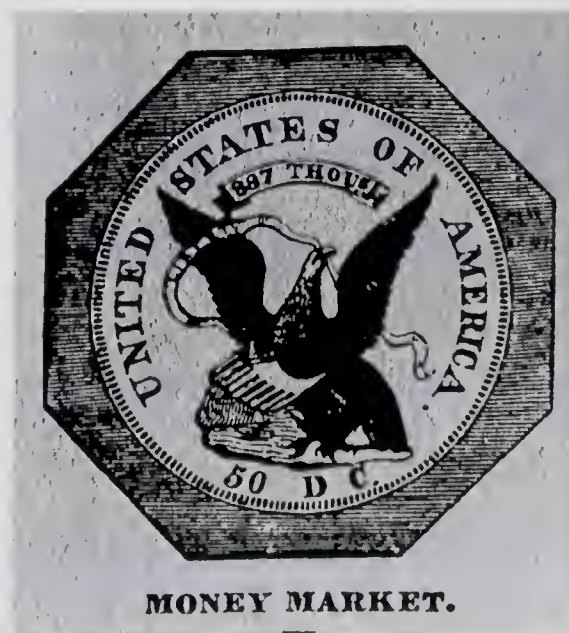
Moffat & Co. normally would have sent at least two of the first coins to Mint Director Patterson, ostensibly for assay and inspection. At the present time, research at the Smithsonian in the National Collection has not shown that one of these original coins still exists, and if it still retains the pedigree. The reason this is important is because the physical description of the first coins struck as printed in the Alta California on Feb. 21, 1851 differs slightly, yet importantly, from the pictured example published Feb. 14th in San Francisco's Prices Current lettersheet. The pictured example from Feb. 14, 1851 is of an octagonal slug bearing "887 fine" in the flag, with an eagle underlain by a punched "50" followed by the letters "D C." (note the placement of the period.) The Feb. 21, 1851 Alta California description differs in the denomination setting only, including the punching of a "50" in the middle on the reverse. Here the description of the obverse calls for "50 Dolls", as opposed to "50 D C." This is a substantial difference because that specific denominational wording

was later used on the non-lettered edge slugs where the dates of the coins were placed on the obverse, instead of hand punched on the edges as in the case of the lettered edge coins placed in circulation in February, 1851. No coins are known today, inclusive of patterns, that meet the description of the written example in the Daily Alta of Feb. 21, 1851. The possibility does exist that a pattern of this nature was the coin shown to the Alta reporter, while in fact the production of the 300 coins was entirely of the kind shown in Prices Current, Feb. 14th.²⁵ Certainly these are the coins that survive today.

These coins are thus the first produced for regular use out of the USAO in San Francisco. Only recently have we begun to compare examples of the surviving population, and research today now shows that these coins were not completely uniform in how their edges were character and gang punched. For starters, it might be surmised that the "D C." stood for dollars and cents, and that it was anticipated that the planchets might not be equal in size and weight, hence the placement of "C" so that the uneven dollar increment could be formally recorded if the weight was off. There are no known examples with any cents recorded, so it must be assumed Moffat & Co. had tight control over the planchets.

The hand lettering of the edges was another issue. This was no simple task. The coins had to be placed in a vice of sorts, with an even pressure applied to the punches, inclusive of gang punches, and emplaced in such a manner as to not alter the flat surface of the coin overall by pounding the punches too hard. The necessity of preparing these in abundance in anticipation of their release on Feb. 21 caused a hurried schedule, and mistakes were made. An example of this was in a recent Stacks-Bowers New York sale, lot

Sketch of the
\$50 Slug



7546.²⁶ Since these early produced slugs were handmade, it makes sense that the mistakes are inconsistent, and through time, it is expected that other mistakes will be known such that a larger study group may emerge. Kagin's Private Gold Coins and Patterns of the United States also notes two other mistakes.²⁷ A list of the known errors in edge lettering can be found at the end of this article with attendant notes.

More research is needed to ascertain when the dies were made to reflect the necessary changes. That study is beyond the scope of this paper.

Adams incorrectly reported that "there are no records to show the number of pieces of coin issued by the USAO." This comment was made in response to his efforts to research the Assay Office, which were monumental at the time. But it became clear during the course of research for this paper, that the physical reports of production sent to the Mint by Moffat and Humbert were split from the cover letters at the time of filing, such that the letters remained in the files of the Treasury Department and the production reports were physically separated at the time of receipt, and sent to the Mint Director in Philadelphia. This is a major new discovery, as were the many letters from Humbert found in NARA, College Park that Adams did not see or quote.²⁸

Acceptability of the USAO \$50 Ingots

Moffat's \$5 and \$10 coins were so well received by the public that no one questioned the purity of the new \$50 ingot (coin). The written illustration about the purity of the Moffat coins given earlier in this paper shows why the \$50s were so well accepted immediately. But, contrary to what the Government wanted in a circulating currency that could be used to pay Duties, the populace still wanted, needed and demanded smaller denominations of gold coins for average daily transactions. Not everyone had to pay Duties at the Port of San Francisco, and a circulating currency for daily business commerce was mandatory. The \$50 became a burdensome currency for the average man. In a letter from merchant W. E. L. Foote dated 31 October 1851, whose business was on California Street in San Francisco, to F. L. Foote in New York, the stress on the average merchant is easily explained:

Gold dust is very scarce now and difficult to buy on account of the scarcity of small gold coin, and miners not being willing to take the \$50 pieces of the US Assay Office. Said pieces are 2% discount now on account of the scarcity of gold coin.²⁹

Changing the \$50 ingots into spendable amounts was costly. Many reports of discounts up to 4% were published in San Francisco newspapers. Thus is often cost a merchant, miner or businessman \$2 to change a \$50 gold ingot.

Humbert and the USAO Turn Over the Business to the Mint

Humbert left the USAO when the office closed upon the sale of the USAO building and equipment to the US Mint December 14, 1853. Five days later, Kellogg announced a partnership with Richter in the new firm of Kellogg & Co. and immediately began production of a reported \$6 million in Kellogg & Co. \$20 gold coins.³⁰

After Richter retired from the firm a year later, Kellogg partnered with Humbert. The pair became the most prolific gold bullion producers in California, often out producing the Mint. Many of these gold ingots survive today because of the recovery of the wreck of the SS Central America. They also made a number of private gold coins for circulation in California, since the Mint was unable to meet public demand for smaller coinage.

Humbert retired from the Kellogg-Humbert partnership in April, 1860. On June 5th, another Augustus Humbert left California for New York onboard the Golden Age, arriving in New York on June 27.

The reported age for this Augustus was 27, which does not correlate to any of the three historically identifiable Augustus Humbert's, thus the conclusion the age was misinterpreted, or it was a different person altogether. Assayer Humbert's son lived in New York after 1860, and enlisted in the Union Army sometime later.³¹

The \$50 USAO Ingot – A US Coin or Not?

A critical political issue in 1851 and 1852 was whether or not the USAO \$50 coin was an official US issued coin. It was originally considered legal tender, as it was accepted at the US Customs office in San Francisco in the payment of Duties. Politicians, however, changed its status over time, rejecting the official status, thus demonetizing the coin, which in turn threw the western financial market into crisis. This key issue may be the most important reason Moffat left the USAO and retired from the entire coining and assayer business. Research for this paper, however, sheds new light on exactly what the Government thought about the coin, and hence how they classified it in reality, outside

of the political maelstrom created when President Taylor died and President Fillmore took office. The evidence is clear in the manner in which the records for the USAO were filed, which took place at the time on an up to date, annual basis. The records for the USAO were filed with the records of the Mint director along with and adjacent to the reports of the Branch Mints. Thus the Government itself considered the USAO \$50 gold coin a regular issue gold coin. If it were not a regular issue coin, the records would have been placed away and apart from the US Branch Mint records in a separate Treasury file, and they were not.

The US Assay office \$50 is thus, and must have been considered a regular issue coin by the Federal Government in 1851. Numismatists have also questioned whether the coin is a “regular issue.” This question is more complicated because the pieces issued by the USAO are unique in the span of the entire Federal coinage series, and are not part of “regular” issues from the US Mint or Branch Mints. The USAO coins were, however, a replacement for this exact regular coinage series – indeed an inventive interim coinage series – made as useful circulating currency (specie) until such time that the US Mint could construct and issue their own coins. It was a unique time in the history of the US Mint system, and calculated steps were taken by the Federal Government to provide a circulating currency in California at a time when it was desperately needed.

Post Script

The older Augustus (AH1), Pierre’s brother, died in Paris in 1873. He went back and forth from New York to Europe at least three times after 1860, as evidenced by passport records. He collected coins, undoubtedly some of which came from his close relative (first cousin?), assayer Humbert (AH2). These coins, minus a few sold privately previously, came up for sale in a May, 1902 sale for SH & H Chapman in New York.

No further records of assayer Augustus Humbert have been located, and more research is necessary. He may have returned to Germany and met his family there, taking a different route than through New York.

Chart of Known Errors in Lettered Edge Slugs

The following chart of error slugs has been kindly provided by Dr. Don Kagin, and is from his upcoming revised *Private Gold Coins and Patterns of the United States*.

LISTING OF KNOWN "ERROR EDGE" UNITED STATES ASSAY OFFICE "Lettered Edge" \$50 GOLD PIECES		
K-2 Lettered Edge .880 Fineness no 50 reverse:		
ASSAYER double punched	Mint State with some smoothing of surface	
ALIFORNIA (no C)	PCGS-30	(see Note 1)
	XF with reverse smoothing of surface	
UMBERT (no H)	AU 55-58	(see Note 1)
OF GOLD struck over 1851	NGC-58	(see Note 4)
O THOUS (NO 88)	PCGS-55	(see Note 2)
K-4 Lettered Edge .887 Fineness with "50" on reverse:		
ASSAYER inverted	NGC-62	(See Note 3)
	PCGS-61	
	NGC-60	
	NCS-XF details, tooling on surface and stars	
AUGUSTUS inverted	NGC-60	(See Note 4)
ALIFORNIA (no CA)	XF/AU	(See Notes 1 and 2)
SSAYER (no A); HUMBER (no T)	NGC 58	(See Notes 1 and 2)

Notes

Note 1. The flat edge of the coin is convex, not allowing the application of the outside two letters of the gang punch. The outwardly curved surface of the edge created from the over-pressure of die-striking of the central obverse and reverse patterns did not allow for the uniform striking of the edge from a lengthy gang punch.

Note 2. The zero is missing possibly because of a convex edge, or was an uneven strike by the person (ostensibly Humbert) striking the gang punch onto the edge.

Note 3. “Gradeflation” has caused many coins to be re-graded and reholdered by the two primary independent grading services. Additionally, many coins have had their surfaces cleaned, curated, or had the application of modern substances to the surface of the coins to enhance their eye appeal. This could result in a coin being regraded as many as three times or more, which would adversely affect the population study by reporting the same coin as three different pieces, when in fact, it is one single piece. It is unknown if this chart reflects these anomalies.

Note 4. A legitimate mistake by the person striking the gang punch (Humbert). It might be argued this mistake is from some of the first coins produced before there was a level of comfort in the edge striking process.

[1] This paper is the result of original research, supplemented by published reports. In many cases, the published reports differ from the research, possibly in part because of the confusion of the number of different people with the identical name of Augustus Humbert. Inquiries were made to attempt to find files or records

from T. Butler King, Thomas Corwin, and other important Californians who were directly involved with Augustus Humbert. Files at NARA College Park were copied to a great extent and numerous discoveries were made, some used here, other referred to for later publication. The files at the Philadelphia NARA are also of extreme interest, and have not yet been studied.

[2] Augustus Humbert, born 1813, in Switzerland

[3] Census records for 1850 show the two as distinctly separate households. Assayer Humbert (AH2) was 2nd Ward, NYC, dwelling 112, family 281, and the other Augustus Humbert (AH1) lived in the Fifth Ward, NYC, dwelling 877, family 2098. Augustina was also written as Augustua. The difficulty of identification of AH1 and AH2 continued after 1860. More research is necessary to be 100% sure of just who is who.

[4] Born in Switzerland

[5] Augustus, the younger (son), has some of his Civil War documents on file at Villanova University.

[6] Yet a fourth Augustus Humbert was in California mining along the Consumnes River in El Dorado County in September of 1850 when the census was taken. That Humbert was born in New York in 1827, and appears no relation to the other three.

[7] The governance of the California region was of great concern to the constituents. Prior to the discovery of gold, General Richard B. Mason was the military Governor. But he resigned in April, 1848 as soon as gold was discovered, and General Persifor F. Smith took over, only to leave within a month. General Bennet Riley then was appointed Military Governor, and he was instrumental in forming a Constitutional Convention to lay the groundwork for the political system in California. The Convention created an election for the Territorial Governor on December 20, 1849, and Peter Hardeman Burnett was elected over opponent John Sutter. California was brought into the Union on September 9, 1850, and Burnett was kept as the first Governor of California. He resigned in 1851. But prior to that important Sept. 9, 1850 date, California had no official political status to the Federal Government.

[8] This was the only time a state west of the Mississippi skipped Territorial status.

[9] The fixed value of gold at the time was \$20.6718. The last two decimals become important in calculations involving many ounces of gold.

[10] See Eckfeldt, p 228. *A Manual of Gold and Silver Coins...* Eckfeldt & Dubois, 1851. The prices were calculated based on the US Government standards of \$20.6718 per troy ounce of gold and \$1.292 per troy ounce for silver.

[11] Eckfeldt & Dubois, p229. The pair published no data of the silver assay of the Moffat coins, thus they never knew if the silver had been removed or not.

[12] Patterson had been Mint Director during the creation of the first Branch Mints – Dahlonega, Charlotte and New Orleans. He was intimately familiar with the Appalachian gold rush and the westward movement prior to the Gold Rush.

[13] George Eckert was hired as Director by President Fillmore after he fired Patterson. That began a string of two consecutive Directors who were inefficient, incompetent, or died in office. Eckert 1851-1853; Pettit 1853; Snowden then took over and brought back

respectability to the Office and department.

[14] The creation of this office was officially appointed April 20, 1850, published in late May, 1850 in several newspapers. The first office was on the south side of Portsmouth Square in San Francisco.

[15] The author is looking for records of Corwin and King currently. These records may contain Humbert correspondence regarding his invitation to become US Assayer and his early days in office.

[16] It is difficult to ascertain if Humbert's family went to California, since most record keeping was of the man of the household. There are no entries for his wife in the Rode 1854 NYC Directory for either Augustus. Only for Pierre, who was still an auctioneer. There are no records of either Humbert in the 1860 US census.

[17] Based on letters in the John C. Fremont archive. See *Expeditions of John Charles Fremont*, Volume 3, p 136. Edited by Mary

[18] More on the early days of Moffat can be gained from *Gold at Pigeon Roost*, 2010, by this author.

[19] John Glover Kellogg arrived in California October 12, 1849 and immediately went to work for Moffat. See *Bancroft, California Biography*, 1881, pp365-6.

[20] *Private Gold Coinage in California*

[21] The Charles I. Bushnell Collection was sold by S.H. & H. Chapman June 20, 1882, lot 1780. The text of the catalog regarding Humbert is neither precise nor clear. It was clearly second hand information. (See the preface of the catalog.) See *Patterns*, K-3, in *Kagin's Private Gold Coinage of the United States*.

[22] The location of this volume today is unknown, and will take further research to see if Adams left out valuable information. Time was not available at the time of publication for this research.

[23] The San Francisco Pacific News lasted only from 1850-1851 and is not digitized yet.

[24] The release was reported in the *Daily Alta* Feb. 21, 1851.

[25] Kagin believes the possibility of such a pattern is small. (personal communication.) However, I believe the specific wording and notation of the placement of the words and characters is far too detailed to be a random description, especially in the light of the \$50 ingots that followed the lettered edge varieties.

[26] Page 323.

[27] P267, K-4. This is the first \$50 slug produced for commercial use.

[28] National Archives and Records Administration

[29] Part of the contents of this letter were published in *Rush for Gold*, page 82, a 2008 catalog of goods for sale by Holabird-Kagin Americana.

[30] *Bancroft; California Biography*, 1881, pp 365-6.

[31] Data taken from *Dan Owens California Coiners and Assayers*. I did not get a chance to review the original document quoted by Owens. Many mistakes were made by census takers and port entry personnel in interpreting personal handwriting. My own family surname is spelled three different ways by people interpreting handwriting of the nineteenth century and placing their incorrect interpretation of the handwriting into modern historical or digital records.

The Goldroad Token

by George Hull

EARLY IN 1850, a wagon train left Western Illinois to slowly make its tragic way to the land of opportunity in the Colorado and Gila River bottoms. Roys Oatman, his wife Mary Ann, and their family of seven children joined the first company of religious Brewsterites to leave for the West. They looked forward to the journey and felt safe. "The natives, for the most part, may be considered friendly, or, at least not dangerous" (7:23).

On May 6 they left Independence, Missouri. The group included a total of 90 men, women, and children following the Santa Fe Trail, one

of the main routes west for gold seekers. By October 1, 1850, the Brewsterites entered New Mexico. Upon reaching the small town of Mora, they stocked up their food supplies, purchasing fruits, vegetables, and mutton.

A traveler, Max Greene, met Roys Oatman on the Arkansas River where it joins the Pawnee Fork. He quickly "noticed the rancor that pervaded the company and just as quickly blamed it on Roys Oatman. He described Oatman as sinfully reckless and always in a muss" (7:47). A hundred miles east of Santa Fe, dissension broke out, and the train

split with four families staying with the Oatman group. On October 9, 1850, the parties divided for good; the Oatman group did not take the branch of the trail to Santa Fe where they could have rested, bought more supplies, and learned of dangers of Native American attacks. From this point on going west, the Oatman party consisted of fifty pioneers. While camping at La Joya, Roys' two fine horses were stolen by Native Americans, and a foreshadowing of future events should have been evident.

Moving rapidly, driven by fear of the Native Americans, they reached several abandoned adobe houses at the Spanish fort at Tubac. They arrived in Tucson on January 8, 1851, where they purchased more food. Forty-five miles beyond Tucson, they passed the 1500 foot tower of rock, El Picacho, an observation tower for Apaches and other tribes. Upon reaching the Maricopa Indian villages, two families, because of the birth of a baby, decided to stay, but not Oatman. "Roys Oatman was not a prudent man, and he was unwilling to wait. On February 10, the Oatman outfit, reduced to only one wagon, left Maricopa Wells on the Gila Trail. Thousands of gold-seekers came along this trail in 1849 and 1850, but by 1851 the gold fever

The Oatman Mine



had subsided and the trail once again became quiet” (7:70). “On the 13th of November, 1848, fifteen Battalion men arrived from California” (4:109). The Mormon Battalion arrived in the Great Salt Lake Valley carrying gold dust after having traveled over the Gila Trail, the same trail that the Oatman party was following. From this gold dust there is reason to believe that the Mormon gold coins were produced by November 1848, or by April 1849.

“On February 18, 1851, a group of Indians, tribe still unknown, visited the hungry and exhausted Oatman family. After asking for food, the Indians murdered Roys Oatman, his wife, and four children; they took his daughters Olive and Mary Ann as captives” (7:75). They left son Lorenzo bleeding and unconscious on the edge of a cliff.

Lorenzo, surviving, made his way to Fort Yuma, while Olive Oatman and her sister, who later died of hunger in captivity, were moved further north by their captors and probably sold to the Mohave tribe even further north. After five years of captivity, a Mexican soldier, Federico Augusto Ronstadt arrived at Fort Yuma and told of two American girls living with the Mohave tribe. Lorenzo, meantime, had worked his way to San Francisco. Upon hearing the news of his sister’s survival, he made plans and was reunited with Olive at Fort Yuma, on the Colorado River.

Forty-six years later, a mixed-race Mohave man, Ben Taddock, was riding on a trail near the present town of Oatman, Arizona, when he saw gold shining, stopped, and located a gold claim. Taddock sold the

claim to Judge Ross and Col. Thomas Ewing, who sold it in 1860. By 1905, the Vivian Mining Company owned the property. Between 1904 and 1907, the mine yielded over \$3,000,000. From 1910 to 1920, Oatman was an active mining town. Earlier in the 1860s, along the Colorado River, gold had been discovered in the mountains. “White miners flocking to the area built a ramshackle town of logs and mud bricks that they called

Olivia (later Olive City) in honor of the white girl who was captured by the Indians in 1851” (7:196). The gold did not last long, but in the early 1900s, another gold deposit was discovered in the Black Mountains “not far from the place where Olive and little Mary Ann caught their first sight of the Mohave Valley in 1852” (7:196). In 1904, they established a post office; the name of the town was Vivian, which was near the Vivian Mine. The post office name was changed to Oatman in 1909. The extremely rich Tom Reed Mine was discovered in 1910. “By 1916 the area that had been the Tom Reed-Gold Road District was being called the Oatman District” (3:443).

Nearby, The Gold Road District was also rich. Fifteen miles from the Colorado River a prospector discovered gold. “Jose Jerez, a Mexican



Modern day Oatman, Arizona

grubstaked by Sheriff Levin in May, 1900, was camped on the Beale road. He idly tapped a rock near him with his hammer and developed one of the great gold mines of the west, hence the name. Original papers for the mine call it ‘Gold Roads.’ The ‘s,’ however, was dropped in time” (3:182). Henry Levin and Jose Jerez dug a 15-foot shaft, which was the start of the Gold Road Mine. In 1901, they sold the mine for \$50,000. Between 1905 and 1907, the mill milled 2,250,000 tons of gold ore. On March 4, 1906, the post office was established (3:443). “They sold it to a French concern headed by Georges Charteau, who in turn peddled it to U.S. Mining and Refining Company” (6:1). As of the spring of 1973, they still owned it. The mine was idle for many of the intervening years, but in 1992, it was acquired by Addvest Minerals. By 1998, the mine was working three

continues on next page

shifts. Ironically, the author met one of the current miners in the spring of 2010, and the miner had come to the Gold Road Mine from the Galena Mine near Wallace, Idaho, where the author had worked for a year while in college in 1956.

The Oatman area has volcanic formations; the gold deposits are in quartz-calcite veins. "The vein material is composed, on average, of equal parts of quartz and calcite. These are banded, parallel to the strike of the vein. They may alternate as bands from a few inches to several feet thick, or may occur as homogeneous masses of quartz and calcite" (5:103). The rock was described by Rae Johnston as, "easily drillable, but it is springy, tough, and has a tendency to pulverize immediately adjacent to the drill hole rather than fracture and break" (5:103). It was from this tough rock that miners, on and off, for 100 years have wrestled more than two million dollars of gold.

"Legends say it was the richest gold mine anywhere, that millions of gold was taken out. The figure grows in direct proportion to the number of whiskeys consumed when

multiplied by the age of the narrator" (6:1). In 1960, the Arizona Highway Magazine described Goldroad "as a completely deserted town. Its adobe houses are gradually melting back into the soil from which they emerged. The miners have all left, but the splendor of the view remains" (1:33). Today only a few shells of stone buildings exist, the old-timer miners are gone, and only a few tokens exist.

The writer was, indeed, fortunate to locate a Chas Goodrich Miners Exchange Saloon token from Goldroad, Arizona, and be the successful bidder in a recent auction. The saloon was in operation from 1908 until 1911. Who were these merchants? Who did they hire to produce these tokens? What Goldroad stories could they tell about our historical past?

Bibliography:

Arizona Office of Tourism, Goldroad - Internet Summary, December 21, 2009.

Ellinger, Ed, "Goldroad and Oatman," *Arizona Highways Magazine*, April 1960.

Granger, Byrd Howell, *Arizona Names X Marks The Spot* (Falconer Publishing Company, 1983).

Hull, George, *The Norris, Gregg & Norris Coin and the Gold Rush of '49* (Ye Galleon Press).

Johnston, Rae L, "Drill Rounds at Oatman," *The Explosives Engineer*, April 1937.

Lowe, Sam, "Goldroad Once Boomed Now a Graven Image," *Arizona Guide*, March 20, 1973.

McGinty, Brian, *The Oatman Massacre, A Tale of Desert Captivity and Survival* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2005).

Varney, Philip, "Arizona's Best Ghost Town," *Old Trails - Mohave Ghosts*.



The Oatman mine area today

AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS



1831-34 \$5 C. Bechtler

Five Dollar

Price Realized

\$43,125

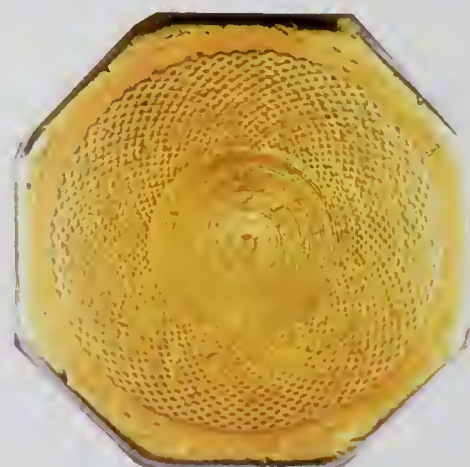
Heritage

Date	Auction	Lot	Description	Service	Prices Realized
6/3	Long Beach Sig.	5406	1851 \$50 RE Humbert, Reeded Edge, 887 Thous, K-7, R.4	PCGS VF35	\$29,900
6/1	Long Beach Sig.	1171	1860 \$10 Clark, Gruber & Co. Ten Dollar K-3, R.5	PCGS AU55	\$40,250
5/30	Long Beach Sig.	5402	1831-34 \$5 C. Bechtler Five Dollar, K-15, R.7	NGC AU55	\$43,125
3/11	New York Sig.	4372	1831-34 \$1 C, Bechtler, 30G, K-1, R.4	NGC AU58	\$10,114
3/11	New York US Sig.	4374	1852 \$50 RE Humbert, 887 Thous, K-11, R.5	NGC AU55	\$57,500
2/5	Long Beach Sig.	5101	1853 \$20 Assay Office, 900 Thous, K-18, R.2	NGC MS65	\$92,000
2/5	Long Beach Sig.	5104	1860 \$5 Mormon, K-6 R.5	PCGS MS62	\$155,250
1/5	Orlando Sig.	5151	1852 \$20 Assay Office, 900 Thous, K-18, R.2	NGC MS65	\$34,500
1/5	Orlando Sig.	5152	1854 \$20 Kellogg Copper Die Trial, K-1, R.8	PCGS MS64	\$80,500
1/4	Orlando Sig.	5155	1849 \$5 Norris, Gregg & Norris, K-4, R.4	PCGS MS60	\$46,000
1/4	Orlando Sig.	6880	1871 25c Liberty Octagonal, BG-718A, R.8	PCGS MS64	\$20,700

Stacks-Bowers

Date	Auction	Lot	Description	Service	Prices Realized
3/24	Baltimore Auction	4235	1851 \$50 Augustus Humbert, Lettered Edge, 880 Thous, No 50 on Rev, K-2, R.5	PCGS AU55	\$138,000
3/24	Baltimore Auction	4236	1852 \$50 Assay Office, 887 Thous, K-13, R.5	PCGS EF40	\$34,500
3/23	Baltimore Auction	4237	1852 \$10 Assay Office, 884 Thous, K-12a (1), R.6	PCGS MS60	\$14,950
3/23	Baltimore Auction	4239	1855 \$50 Wass, Molitor & Co, K-9, R.5	PCGS EF40	\$46,000
3/22	Baltimore Auction	7926	1876 25c Liberty Octagonal BG-778, R.7	PCGS AU58	\$719
3/22	Baltimore Auction	7929	1870 25c Liberty Round, BG-808, R.3	PCGS MS67	\$4,255

1851 \$50 RE Humbert Slug
Price Realized \$29,900
Heritage, Long Beach



DESTINATION HIGHLIGHT

John Sutter's Fort and Sawmill



Replica of John Sutter's Sawmill

California Gold Rush history buffs will be interested to learn that there are two separate sites to visit in California related to John Sutter, on whose property gold was first discovered.

The first of these is Marshall Gold Discovery State Park, located in Coloma, California, on Highway 49, between Placerville and Auburn (about 1 hour northeast of Sacramento). Visitors to this park can try out panning for gold in the American River, see a replica of the original sawmill and over a dozen other historic buildings, and check out the actual site where James Marshall discovered gold. A museum on site is open 10AM – 3PM Tuesday through Sunday year-round.

The other point of interest is John Sutter's "Fort," built after Sutter's arrival to California in 1839. Within the thick walls, he developed important means of growing California's wealth, such as cattle farming and grape growing. Sutter was also known as a generous host, having sheltered recovering members of the Donner Party, as well as other wayward pioneers. With the discovery of gold in 1848, the fort was largely deserted, and all that was left a decade later was the central building. Restoration efforts in the 1890s returned Sutter's Fort to its 1846 appearance. The Fort is located in Sacramento, California, between K and L Streets, and 26th and 28th Streets. It is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10AM – 5PM.

continues on next page



Sutter's Fort today

For more information on John Sutter and his settlement in the Sacramento Valley, check out these two books:

1. **John Sutter: A Life on the North American Frontier**, by **Albert L. Hurtado**, a “definitive biography of Sutter, mining a wealth of sources to create the first fully documented account of the man and his times. John Sutter explores Sutter’s life in the broader context of America’s rush for westward expansion while plumbing the inner dynamics of this erstwhile empire-builder.” (Amazon.com)

2. **The Sutter Family and the Origins of Gold-Rush Sacramento**, by **John Sutter, Jr.**, an 1855 “statement cataloging how both Sutters were swindled. This extensive document describes the dirty deals of the first great gold rush in the western United States” with biographical context by Allan R. Ottley and introduction by Albert L. Hurtado. (Amazon.com)

Visit www.park.ca.gov for more information and a virtual tour of John Sutter’s Fort.

Kids: When All Else Fails, BRIBE!

by Robert Chandler

On March 5, 2012, I purchased from Mark Baker on eBay a typical Gold Rush California letter: “I am afraid I shall not have much to write this time,” the Argonaut apologized, but “I want [you] to write me.” His means of getting the home folk to write holds the interest.

Ned Hale, 27, wrote his father Silas, a farmer in Guilford, Maine, from Sacramento on March 12, 1854, telling another typical story of Gold Rush fortunes: They were hard to come by. He had been in California for some time; a Maine-born E.C. Hale his age was at Auburn in 1850.

“Dear Father,” he began, “You may be surprised after Receiving my letter from Origion Gulch that you should get one so soon from Sac City.” Hale decided not to go back to the Butte County mining area, “becos I could not get the money to buy the Ranch.” He elaborated that, as “it costs so much to go up there, I beleave I shant go back. I hav sent up after my Clothes &c. but they hav not come down yet.”

With the death of competition and the birth of a “Compleat Menopoly here over travil” the costs



Steamer approaching the Golden Gate, 1854

jumped. The California Stage Company came into being on January 1, 1854, and on March 1, the California Steam Navigation Company emerged. Hale explained the result to those in the Pine Tree State: “The Stages and Steam Boats out here hav formed a combynation all together and hav compleat Controle of the travling Publick. If eny one putes on an Opposition they will put one against it and the Company is so heavy they will soon Run it of[f].”

.....

Hale therefore decided, "I think now that I shall stop here, but for how long I cant tell. I have not yet got eny thing to do yet, but am in hopes to soon. Business is very Dull here, but begins to pick up a little." He closed with the usual lament: "I don't think of eny thing more at present, so I will wate a while, S--- [Sh-t], Shave & Shirt my self and Clean up a little more By & By."

Californians demanded letters above all else and Hale stood among them. "The mail that was Due the first of the month has not got in yet," he wrote. "I am in hopes it will before I send this."

The Pacific Mail Steamship Company answered Hale's wish on March 13, 1854: "The Columbia brings up about 300 passengers," the Alta California reported, "and the largest mail ever made up for this State, comprising three hundred and thirty bags." The delay occurred when the storm-damaged Georgia put into Norfolk, Virginia, and the Empire City completed the voyage to Aspinwall (Colón).

Hale resumed writing on the morning of March 15: "I must now finish as the mail Closes at 12 O clock. I hav Just got back from the Office, but Did not get any letters. I shall go again this week for fear they have not got them Distributed. I was in hopes to have got one to [be] answered in this [letter], but I will hav to giv it up for this time. It has ben Raining here for three nights and two Dayes pretty steddy and a good prospect for some time longer. However our streets are Mud Prufe, the Plank ones I mean"

Now, Ned Hale becomes interesting, as written accounts describing small California gold coins are scarce. "Tell the Children to write often," he asked his father. "You can find nuse Down there that would pleas me evry time, but here it is Deferent for you Dont kno eny boddy if I write about them."

"Here is a gold dollar for the one that writes the most letters," he announced, but commanded, "Dont quurrel for it. It is just the shape of a California Slug or 50. Dollar peace. I want you to write letters enough to pay for it, not all at once, but evry Mail."

Hale concluded, "I think I have filled up thise one [sheet] pretty well. I hope you will Do as well when you write. Direct to Sacramento City as usual. Giv my love to Mother & all the Children. Also all inquiring friends and Beleave me always the same old only 27 NED."

Ned's letter left Sacramento aboard the Senator at 2 P.M. in time to be aboard the "magnificent and unrivalled steamer" Golden Gate departing San Francisco at noon on March 16, 1854. Let's hope that Ned got his dollar's worth of letters from his siblings.

Learn about the ANA's
Young Numismatist membership

at

www.money.org

Learn about numismatics

Participate in projects

Attend classes including ANA's Summer
Seminar

Apply for scholarships

Recieve awards

Earn auction money

A HISTORY OF WELLS, FARGO & CO.

BY DR. ROBERT J. CHANDLER, RETIRED SENIOR HISTORIAN
WELLS FARGO BANK HISTORY DEPARTMENT

FOUNDED IN 1852 by Henry Wells and William G. Fargo, president and secretary respectively of the American Express Company, to do business in Gold Rush California, Wells Fargo Bank is the sole survivor of those rough boom and bust days. It is as it says it is, the Oldest Bank in the West. Despite eight major mergers in its long history, the Wells Fargo name has always survived. With Wells Fargo's 2009 merger with Wachovia it gained the Oldest Bank in the East for its family tree. This is Philadelphia's Bank of North America, chartered by the Continental Congress in 1781, and thereby predates the United States Constitution.

American Express and its family of expresses founded by the same men to serve different parts of the country—Wells Fargo, United States, and National—and Adams & Co. were rivals in the east and the west. California conditions, that is, an abundance of gold, a universal demand to transform dust into coin, and a means to remit funds between both coasts, made these two eastern express companies into western bankers. Since the California state constitution of 1849 forbade the state to charter any banks, they had the field wide open.

A July 1853 Wells Fargo circular declared that “a draft on New York is good at any place on which we draw”—and Wells Fargo drew on 65 of the largest cities in New York, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, and Canada reached by American Express, “and at by far the most of them it would command a Premium varying from ½ percent to 2 percent.”

Of note, from 1852 to 1905 and the merger of Wells, Fargo & Co's Bank with the Nevada National Bank to become Wells Fargo Nevada National Bank, Wells Fargo used the same design: parallel gray lines that acted as safety paper. Areas of absence spelled out in large white letters, “First,” “Second,” and “Third.”

At first Adams, which arrived in that pioneer year of 1849, and then Wells Fargo established strings of banking and express offices throughout the gold region. They primarily bought gold, accepted deposits, sold exchange, and ran a profitable Letter Express. Certificates of deposit and envelopes with express hand stamps are other long-established collecting areas. Envelopes from the Pony Express, which Wells Fargo supervised for its final six months, are at the very apex.

Besides regular commercial checking accounts, these express

and banking offices furnished bills of exchange to be used within California. They were what English banker William Leatham termed “Inland Exchange.” In England, they made up four-fifth of the circulating bills of exchange. As noted earlier, in 1852 Wells Fargo agent John Q. Jackson spent his days in Auburn

WELLS, FARGO & CO.,

General Express Forwarders, and
Carriers of the Overland Mail.



Daily Stages to and from the Terminus of the Union Pacific Railroad, of Omaha, and the Central Pacific Railroad, of California. Passenger ticketed from Omaha to Denver, Salt Lake City, Austin, Virginia, Nevada, Sacramento, California, and intermediate points.

Stages leave SALT LAKE CITY daily to the above points, and on alternate days for Virginia City and Helena, Montana, Boise City, Idaho, and other points in these Territories.

THE COMPANY RUN AN OVERLAND EXPRESS

In connection with their Stage line, and are prepared to carry PARCELS, BANK NOTES, BULLION, GOLD and SILVER COIN, and EXPRESS FREIGHT to all parts of the world at greatly reduced rates. Collections and Commissions promptly attended to. Particular attention paid to the delivery of EXPRESS LETTERS at all points on our routes.

For particulars apply at the office, on East Temple Street, Salt Lake City.

THEO. F. TRACY Agent.

Oct. 1, 1868.

76-lyr

Wells Fargo Circular October 1, 1868

“drawing checks on the offices below, when men wish to take money to the cities, as it is a great convenience to them to have a check instead--and it saves us the trouble of shipping coin up from below for purchasing dust.”

The executive then running Adams & Co's bank used its deposits for their own purposes, causing it to fail in the Financial Panic of 1855. Like their later peers who brought on the Financial Panic of 2008, they escaped punishment. Adams' express business reorganized as the Pacific Express, but ties to equally shady bankers brought its demise.

Wells Fargo emerged from the February crisis resolving to remove banking functions, such as receiving deposits and loaning that money, from its upcountry offices. By the end of 1855, it had 56 offices throughout California, in the agricultural areas as well as the mining districts and Wells Fargo kept growing. These offices, of course, sold bills of exchange. As a safety measure, the San Francisco office made them out to the agent in charge and his endorsement is a boon to autograph collectors.

Those Wells Fargo agents that now bought gold dust did so under their own names as their own private business. At the same time, the fixed price for gold dust broke down and purchasers bought dust on its assayed value. Dust-buying became a very local business. Charles T. Blake, as agent at Michigan Bluff, knew a hundred different varieties from the area's mines, ranging from 630 to 930 fine. Therefore, Blake continued, a local buyer had to know “gold and its value the moment they see it.” By 1857, several Wells Fargo agents learned assaying. Thereby, said William Daegener, Wells Fargo's agent



Wells Fargo Express Co. Deadwood Treasure Wagon and Guards with \$250,000 gold bullion from the Great Homestake Mine, Deadwood, S.D., 1890

in Columbia, “I shall be sure to pay the highest price and have profit left.”

How does this fit into collecting bills of exchange and checks? Those agents who bought gold sold checks to local merchants drawn on their San Francisco accounts. Their inland exchange system mirrored Wells Fargo cycle sending gold and bills of exchange between the east and west coasts. 1860s Agents Checks are available in decent numbers from Daegener at Columbia, Charles Theodore Hart Palmer at Folsom, and Cornelius C. Beekman, at Jacksonville, Oregon.

As records survive for packrat C.T.H. Palmer, he becomes the example. Wells Fargo deposited Palmer's proceeds from gold sales into his San Francisco checking account. In turn, Palmer sold Folsom merchants and miners Wells Fargo checks drawn on this account and payable in San Francisco. “Checks on San Francisco at Par” drew customers. Rival dust buyers made

similar arrangements with other banks, such as the Bank of D.O. Mills in Sacramento and the Bank of California in San Francisco. With no system to clear out-of-town checks, interior merchants jumped at this chance to pay Bay City wholesalers.

As an example, in the summer of 1860, Palmer wrote and average of 237 checks monthly. When his gold deposits did not quite cover his check clearings, Wells Fargo charged him daily interest on the overdraft, figured at 1/15 percent per day, or 2 percent per month—charges comparable to current credit cards. Through this arrangement of continually buying dust and selling checks, Palmer reused his capital. For instance:

As an example, in the summer of 1860, Palmer wrote and average of 237 checks monthly. When his gold deposits did not quite cover his check clearings, Wells Fargo charged him daily interest on the overdraft, figured at 1/15 percent per day, or 2 percent

continues on next page

per month—charges comparable to current credit cards. Through this arrangement of continually buying dust and selling checks, Palmer reused his capital. For instance:

	Gold	Checks	Difference
June 1860	\$85,457	\$92,299	-\$6,842
July 1860	\$116,105	\$103,782	+\$12,323
August 1860	\$95,898	\$98,786	-\$2,888
Total	\$297,460	\$294,867	+\$2,593

This is a brief survey of collectible Wells Fargo financial documents. Wells Fargo's eastern banking offices at New York, Boston, and Philadelphia also sold bills of exchange, generally with black printing on white paper, payable in California. San Francisco, New York, and Boston, also sold exchange payable in Europe. Wells Fargo banks in Virginia and Carson City, Nevada, and Salt Lake

City, Utah, drew bills of exchange, while in the 1870s, some interior agents had their own decorative bills of exchange payable by Wells Fargo in New York. Naturally, Wells Fargo checks used by customers reflect all of the current printing styles and Federal Government stamp tax laws. The variety of fiscal paper is endless.



Wells Fargo Stage Coach

CAL GOLD ONLINE

*"The Place to Mine for
Golden Nuggets of Knowledge"*

*Visual Guide to Cals • Color Pictures of Cals
Discussion Forums • Chat-Room
References • Articles
Auctions • Plus more!*

www.calgoldonline.com

∞ Free Membership ∞

Sign up and join us and enjoy the many benefits the website has to offer!

Copyright 2004 by Proprietor of CalGoldOnline.com All rights reserved.

CalGoldOnline.com - "The Place to Mine for Golden Nuggets of Knowledge"

Indian and Post Trader Tokens: OUR FRONTIER COINAGE

by J.J. Curto

To the early "Trader" and "Trading Post" should go much

of the credit for the rapid exploration, opening, settlement and development of our North American Continent. Both acted as the pioneers and pathfinders for expansion Westward and Northward along the entire colonial front.

The early footholds secured in the interior by the early fur traders and trading posts worked a transformation upon the Indian which had far-reaching effects. First as a means of controlling the affections of the Indians by gaining their friendship and averting their enmity, and secondly as a branch of commerce.

Into the Indian's hands, they placed iron and guns to make him a hunter of furs with which to purchase the goods of civilization, which in turn made the Indian dependent on the white man for food and supplies.

Long before the pioneer settler appeared on the scene, primitive Indian life to a great extent had passed away and the settler did not have to fight for his farms and lands.

Traders' trails became the early roads into the interior, their canoe routes opened up our waterways. The trader discovered the best soils in the interior and induced settlers to go there. The trading post, by quickly growing into a trading colony, fostered the advance of settlements and created a vast outlet for merchandise.

The sites of many of our principal cities such as Albany, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis, Kansas



City, Denver and many others are the sites of old trading posts.

The "Trading Post" has long been known as a very influential institution. Established in the midst of an uncivilized people, it is the first form of forced exercised in the opening of the land of such people to civilization.

With its British East India Co. in the far East and its Hudson Bay Co. in North America, England early recognized the magic power offered by the trading post and grew great thereby.

That our own government also early realized the importance of controlling the fur trade is manifested by a secret article in a treaty with the Creek Indians in 1790, an article suggested and recommended by President Washington himself, for allowing the annual importation of \$60,000 worth of goods through the Florida frontier, without payment of duties, to counteract the influence of British traders from Pensacola. Again in 1829, strenuous efforts were made to introduce bills into congress to gain congressional protection for the United States trade by: 1) excluding the British; 2) reducing duty on such articles used in the Indian trade; and 3) imposing a duty on foreign furs imported into the U.S.

The decline in the fur trade started when the rich areas of the Midwest and West were slowly converted to



Detail from 1777 map by William Faden

agricultural by the early settlers during the opening of the West. The number of great fur catches gradually decreased, eventually to a point when furs had to be supplemented by the Indians with other articles or commodities of their own handicraft in order to continue trading.

The unit of trade used by the early fur trader was the beaver skin. Made Beaver was the currency unit of the trading country. Dollars and cents and pounds and shillings were unheard of. A beaver skin usually weighed about one and one half pounds. One pound of beaver skin was called a "plus." All other skins were graded in value to the beaver standard of the "plus."

Articles on the traders shelves were priced in "Made Beavers" or "pluses." A gun, priced at 10 "Made Beavers" or 15 "pluses" could be purchased with fox, muskrat or other skins but only in their proportionate value to the beaver standard.

As the beaver grew scarcer the unit changed to money. By 1820 when few beaver skins were marketed in Wisconsin for example, the term "plus" stood for one dollar.

In later years of the fur trade, muskrat skin was also used as currency. In 1836 it was the equivalent of 20 cents.

The goods used in the Indian trade were chiefly guns, powder, and ball, knives, hatchets, coarse cloths, fancy goods, ribbons, shawls, kettles, tobacco and liquor.

With the expansion of the white settlements to the West, regulations for the relations between white man and Indians became necessary. The U.S. government undertook to regulate Indian affairs by forbidding settlers to take up lands held by the Indians until treaties had been made ceding the lands to the United States.

Regulations for trading with the Indians were passed

and agents appointed to supervise the activity.

In 1825 the U.S. government determined on a policy of creating a permanent home for the Indians West of the Mississippi. Treaties were made with those tribes east of the Mississippi, whose lands were exchanged for lands in the "Indian Country."

This "Indian Country" was put under supervision of a Bureau of Indian Affairs created in 1832.

Increased migration to the Pacific Coast followed by the construction of railroads, caused the U.S. Government in 1871, to abandon the former policy of making treaties and begin the system of settling them on reservations.

Regardless of such changes in treaties, policies, or in land status, the Indian Traders continued to ply their trade. Whether it was because this trade was carried on in a land without a national currency, or in a land lacking any currency whatsoever, or whether it was just to insure currency in the form of tokens.

These tokens are the only link that connects numismatics with the history and story of the opening and winning of the great West and Northwest of North America.

The grouping together of these relatively few frontier tokens are as important and worthy to be classified in the colonization series of North America as are our colonials and early Canadians and are decidedly much more rare.

The lack of interest in these tokens can only be attributed to: 1) neglected importance; 2) scarcity; and 3) desirability overlooked due to their similarity in some respects to the trade check so widely and profusely used in all sections of the country.

As a result of progressive changes, the tokens of the Indian trader show three distinct periods of transitions through which the territories passed in regard to dealings with the trader:

1. The early period when the trader sought only furs, a period when the field of operation of the trader was all of North America. A period beginning in 1670 and probably ending in 1832 in United States territory, and in about 1869 in Canadian territory. The days of the Hudson Bay and Northwest Companies with their tokens valued in skins.

2. The period between 1832 and 1871 in the U.S. when territory west of the Mississippi was known as "Indian Country" and the Indian trader was either the Army Post Sutler or Post Trader at some government outpost, or a private licensed trader or trading company such as Durfee and Peck or McClure. In Alaska and Canada such Indian Traders are still existent.



3. The period after 1871 in the U.S. when the creation of Indian reservations and agencies, the Indian trader became a coveted political appointment by the Department of Interior. The tokens of this grouping generally indicate the agency to which the traders were assigned.

Most of us look back to the so-called “Days of ‘49” as the beginning of an era, opening our great “western territories” to colonization, the early days.

Most of us look back to the so-called “Days of ‘49” as the beginning of an era, opening our great “western territories” to colonization, the early days.

While important exploration and events took place in our western territories prior to 1849, it was the discovery of gold in California in 1848 which probably contributed most to the birth of our west as we know it today. It is therefore just a little more than 100 years ago that our west was in infancy. Life in the early west was somewhat similar to that of our colonial days—turbulent, hazardous and trying. The problems involved in our development were also somewhat similar, scarcity to all commodities and of particular interest to us, a scarcity of money.

The problems had to be solved in turn by the various groups of colonizers. To the west first came the early Indian trader opening up trails and waterways. He was followed by military outposts to protect the trader and his goods and later to protect the wagon trains on their trek westward. These were the frontiersmen.

Later came the settlers, the farmers, the merchants, the hotels, the saloons, gambling halls, the express companies, the stage coaches and the ranchers. These were the pioneers pushing our frontiers ever westward. In

Alaska, in parts of Canada and even the United States, these frontiers exist even to this day.

History reveals that there were many important events and dates involved in the growth and colonization of the west and its numismatic story—gold discovery in 1848, purchase of Alaska in 1867, completion of the Union Pacific Railroad in 1869, various Indian wars, especially the war with the Sioux Indians from 1866 to 1878 and creation of Indian reservations in 1871. Territorial development finally culminated in the territories which were subsequently divided into states and incorporated into Union.

The monetary problems of the western and territorial colonizers were solved by them for the most part, in the same manner others had solved them before, in our eastern colonies, in our Midwest, in Canada and the world over: by the issuance of tokens and scrip. Much has been written about the private and territorial gold coinage of our early west, sometimes also classified as pioneer gold. Issued by the Mormons, assayers, trading companies, mining companies, and bankers, they are highly prized and valued by collectors. They are, however, actually tokens and one part of the numismatic history of territorial development. The others in copper, brass, nickel and other metals issued by our traders and outposts were just as important, just as interesting and rare, and just as hard to acquire.

Tokens were predominantly in use by traders and trading posts until about 1930. With the influx of banks, stores and tourists, the need for actual currency became more and more a necessity and tokens, at first gradually and then more rapidly, were eventually withdrawn completely from use. Many were annulled by their issuers with a small punch mark in one of the inscribed letters that looks very



Durfee & Peck Token (ca. 1869)

much like an attempted puncture. Others were stamped "void" or with an "R" for redeemed, an "O" for void, "C" for cancelled, etc.

Many early forts throughout the West were built primarily to afford protection to the early traders in the transportation of goods.

Forts in the southwest, along the Arkansas River were built to protect the traders dealing with the upper provinces of Mexico. The Mexican Provinces of Santa Fe, Chihuahua and Sonora contained 600,000 to 700,000 people and this outlet for goods was of great importance. They were supplied chiefly with dry goods by Missouri traders who obtained the goods from concerns in St. Louis.

In 1822, a report to the United States Senate from Thomas L. McKenney, Superintendent of Indian Trade, listed 9 United States trading posts. In 1889 there were over 85 of them.

Post Sutlers were appointed by the War Department to each of these former military outposts to supply certain necessities and luxuries to the soldiers stationed at, or to emigrants and travelers passing or visiting the post. In 1866, congress abolished sutlerhips and 10 years later established Post Traders in their stead.

In most cases the early Post Sutlers and Post Traders were licensed or given the right to trade with friendly Indians to promote dependency.

Later, as the area around a frontier post grew into a community where traders of all kinds were able to supply the necessities and luxuries previously referred to, the Post Trader became only a privileged rival of citizens engaged in legitimate Indian trade.

As a result, regulations were passed forbidding the Indians from trading at a military post. However as Military Post

Traders carried articles the Indians wanted, which the Indian Traders were not authorized to buy, trade between the Post Trader and Indians continued through the Military or Indian Scouts. The scout purchased from the Post Trader for the Indian in return for information or good will.

The Post Sutler and Trader therefore were very closely allied with the Indian trade and the tokens issued by them take their very rightful place as a part of the Trader Series. Post Traderships were finally abolished by Congress in 1893.

In summary, from an analysis of history of Post Sutlers and Post Traders, it can be concluded that Post Sutler tokens were issued and in use previous to 1866, and Post Trader tokens from 1876, to and including the year 1893.

Among the trader tokens from certain frontier forts we find a few without the trader being designated as either Post Sutler or Post Trader.

Aside from full-blooded Indians, it was unlawful for any one to transact business in the Territories unless he had obtained a permit or license from the Office of Indian Affairs, then under the War Department.

The earliest American trading companies were the American Fur Company organized in 1808 by John Jacob Astor, the Missouri Fur Company organized in 1809, the Pacific Fur company around 1810 and the Rocky Mountain Fur Company in 1822.

These were followed by the Columbian Fur Company, the Northwestern Fur Company and numerous other companies and individual traders, that by 1827 there were 222 licenses issued to traders according to a War Department report of that year.

In the years following 1871, when the government undertook to settle the Indians upon reservations, the traderships at the various Indian reservations were eagerly sought after. During the early years, only personal or political favorites of the administration figured in such appointments.

Later as the traders were used to assist the Indian Administration personnel in the study of Indian ways, wants, needs, productive capacity, etc. with the aim of making the Indians as self-supporting as possible, the selection of traders was most carefully made.

Records of the 50th Congress, 1888-89, lists approximately 240 Indian Traders whose licenses had not expired as of March 26, 1886.



Indian Trading Post in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri

[illegible]

Stack's Bowers Galleries Upcoming Auction Schedule

*We also buy and sell direct – please call for information.
Call today to find out how you can maximize your consignment
potential in an upcoming Stack's Bowers Galleries auction.*

SUMMER 2012 | BRASHER BULLETIN 33

